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## University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, February 14, 2011

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**UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**02/14/11 (3:15 p.m. - 3:37 p.m.)**

**SUMMARY**

**Summary of main points**

1. No press present. Provost **Gibson** absent. Faculty Chair **Jurgenson** absent. Senate Chair **Wurtz** commented on the need for a task force for reorganizing the Senate Constitution due to the College merger, on the need for a nominating committee for next year's Chair and Vice Chair, on the availability of a 2nd senator listserve available for senators' use, and lastly noted that recognition of former senators and the former secretary will take place at the next meeting.
  2. Minutes approved for: January 24, 2011 (**Hotek/Funderburk**)
  3. Docketed from the calendar:
    - 1070 968 Name for the Merged College (**Soneson/Hotek**), regular order
    - 1071 969 Department Name Change (**Soneson/Gallagher**), regular order
  4. Consideration of docketed items:
    - 1069 967 Emeritus Status Request for Jean Mary **Gerrath**, Department of Biology, for June 2010 (**Neuhaus/unanimous consent**), passed.
  5. Continuing Business--For the Good of the Order:

Items included the need for a 3rd member for the ad hoc committee considering textbook submission; further explanation of the nominating committee for next year's officers; and verification of the Spring meeting where senators will experience a short Diversity Program so they will be more keenly aware of that campus initiative.
  6. Adjournment at 3:37 p.m.
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**MINUTES OF THE  
UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
02/14/11  
Mtg. #1692**

**PRESENT:** Karen Breitbach, Betty DeBerg, Forrest Dolgener, Phil East, Jeffrey Funderburk, Deborah Gallagher, Doug Hotek, Michael Licari, Julie Lowell, Chris Neuhaus, Michael Roth, Jerry Smith, Jerry Soneson, Katherine Van Wormer, Susan Wurtz

**ABSENT:** Megan Balong, Gregory Bruess, Gloria Gibson, James Jurgenson, Marilyn Shaw, Laura Terlip

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair **Wurtz** called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. with a quorum in attendance.

**COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CALL FOR PRESS IDENTIFICATION

No press in attendance.

COMMENTS FROM PROVOST GLORIA GIBSON

Provost **Gibson** did not attend today. Associate Provost **Licari** had no comments to pass along.

COMMENTS FROM FACULTY CHAIR JAMES JURGENSON

Faculty Chair **Jurgenson** did not attend today.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR SUSAN WURTZ

Senate Chair **Wurtz** had several comments. First, the reorganization of colleges and units will require reorganization of the Senate. A plan ready for faculty to vote on may not be possible yet this Spring. Faculty Chair

**Jurgenson**, through e-mail, did not express interest in being a part of that decision-making within the Senate, so a task force may be the way to look at that. **Wurtz** asked for expressions of interest in an ad hoc committee to look at the issues. Senator **DeBerg** thought this was a good idea for looking at reorganization, by-laws, etc. and noted she was willing to serve but not before March. **Wurtz** stated her willingness to serve also.

Senator **Soneson** asked what needed change besides the obvious one of the combining of the two colleges. **Wurtz** said she feels there really are not enough Senators to do the work that needs to be done, so a larger Senate is needed to spread the work around. Also, because Senators are not supposed to be representing their home units, a larger Senate would help get past that feeling of specific representation and would also bring in more insights in areas such as the Graduate College and the Liberal Arts Core, pockets currently not very represented. Senator **Smith** stated that he is not convinced of the need for a larger Senate. For example, a Senate rep. currently sits on the Liberal Arts Core which does not require expanding the number of people on the Senate. He is concerned that if an expansion is made beyond the current senators by College, then it opens a Pandora's box of adding one and then another and then another without knowing where it will end. He is not convinced that there are not enough senators now to do the work that needs to be done. **Wurtz** noted that there is a lot of work not getting done. **Smith** stated, however, that having more people does not mean more will volunteer to do the work.

**Wurtz** noted that looking at the issue does not mean that it will be implemented, and **Smith** agreed. **Soneson** agreed that getting larger than the present size may become unwieldy, and he argued against having a representative from a unit like the Graduate College who has its own organization where they raise issues and pass things and bring them to the Senate. **Wurtz** explained that she does not have any sort of proposal in place and that she is merely naming questions that need to be looked at because some plan of reorganization needs to be brought forward. **Smith** stated that it could be as simple as dealing with the merger of the two colleges and that impact on senate representation.

**DeBerg** reminded everyone that at the Summer meeting when she first joined the Senate many types of proposals were discussed beyond representation by Academic Unit, even a regional plan by building. She has a sense that this is a small Senate for the size of the faculty, but she is not saying one way of apportioning seats is better than another without fully looking at the possibilities. She is not worried about getting work done, because some will still do little no matter the size, but she does feel it brings a broader perspective to have a larger representation. A larger group brings more voices to the body.

**Wurtz** acknowledged that she and **DeBerg** will begin those considerations in 2 weeks (March) and invited anyone who cares to join them to do so. Senator **Neuhaus** said that he could participate if talks began after Spring Break. **Wurtz, DeBerg, and Neuhaus** agreed to serve as the ad hoc committee beginning after Spring Break. **Soneson** wanted to be included, and it was suggested that the notice of that meeting be sent to the Senate listserve so that others who might be available and interested could also participate.

**Wurtz** continued her comments by reminding the senators that there is now a second listserve available which contains just senators' e-mail addresses (and Nuss). FacultySenate@uni.edu goes to senators and others for notices of meetings, minutes, etc. ONLYsenatorsONLY@uni.edu will be used for nitty-gritty low-level things so as not to fill up others' mailboxes. She cautioned, however, that no decision-making is to be made behind closed doors and that anything covered in these e-mails needs to be brought into the meeting and used in the meeting.

Another comment from **Wurtz** concerned the nominating committee. Senators in either their 3rd year or 6th year of their service make up the nominating committee for officers for next year. Those senators in their 3rd year may return for another 3-year term, if their College so chooses. Those in their 6th year may not return. These 3- & 6-year senators include: **Lowell, Hotek, Balong, Soneson, and Smith**. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected from within the Senate for 1-year terms. New senators are sent to the Senate by their Colleges for 3-year terms. **DeBerg** asked that someone on this nominating committee agree to call the first meeting, and **Hotek** agreed.

One final comment from **Wurtz** was that the recognition plaques for last year's outgoing senators and the senate secretary will be awarded at the next meeting.

## **BUSINESS**

### MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The Minutes for 01/24/11 were distributed to senators electronically. Nuss received no additions or corrections prior to the meeting. No senators today had additions or corrections. Motion was made to approve the minutes as distributed (**Hotek/Funderburk**). Passed.

### CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR DOCKETING

#### Consideration of Calendar Item 1070 for Docket #968, Name for the Merged College

**Soneson** moved to docket in regular order. Second by **Hotek**. **East** inquired as to why this was coming before the Senate? **Wurtz** said that according to the Policies and Procedures Manual that it is required. **Licari** called it one step in the change. The Senate is not required to approve the new change, but if it does not, then questions are raised in the next steps. Vote called by **Wurtz**. Passed to docket in regular order with one no vote and one abstention.

#### Consideration of Calendar Item 1071 for Docket #969, Department Name Change.

**Soneson** moved to docket in regular order. Second by **Gallagher**. **Lowell** noted that this is the proposed title Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures for the current Department of English Language and Literature. She said there is an issue with this change that her Department has yet to resolve but that by the next meeting it should be fine. Vote called by **Wurtz**. Passed to docket in regular order with one abstention.

## CONSIDERATION OF DOCKETED ITEMS

DOCKET 967, EMERITUS STATUS REQUEST, Jean Mary Gerrath, Department of Biology, effective 06/10 (**Neuhaus**/unanimous consent).

**Neuhaus** noted that Gerrath is a very praiseworthy person who has been highly active in the community with the arboretum south of Waterloo and many things on campus--an all-around great colleague. No further discussion. Passed.

## CONTINUING BUSINESS--For the Good of the Order

**East** brought up the need for a 3rd member on their ad hoc committee regarding the textbook submission process. He currently serves with **Funderburk**. Two were asked but were unable to serve. He is looking for names or volunteers. **Roth** volunteered to assist or could name some in his department who are working on the same issue. **Wurtz** asked that they work it out among themselves.

**Hotek** asked for explanation of the role of the nominating committee and how he might call a meeting. This committee of senators in their final year of their current term (returning or not for another term) will come up with a slate for Chair and Vice Chair from among current Senators (asking permission of those they nominate). Those nominees will be voted upon by the full Senate before the semester is over. Technically, this Senate continues through the Summer. The new Senate begins August first, but a transition is helpful.

**Wurtz** noted that there will be the Spring meeting like last year where they will experience a short version of the Diversity Program so that senators can speak with some authority about what it is on campus. Last year's Spring meeting was held in the same room, wrapped up things from the year, and set an agenda for the upcoming year.

## ADJOURNMENT

The business for the day being accomplished, the chair asked for a motion to adjourn at 3:37 (**Soneson/Roth**) and declared the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Sherry Nuss,  
Administrative Assistant  
UNI Faculty Senate